

1.9
W 892 Br

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ NOV 1923
U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating.

Extension Service, Office of
Cooperative Extension Work,
Washington, D. C.

DAIRY BULL ASSOCIATIONS

Excerpts from 1922 Annual Reports
of State and County
Extension Agents.

This circular is one of a series issued
by the Office of Cooperative Extension
Work as a part of its informational ser-
vice to State and county extension work-
ers. The material contained herein is
not released for printed publication.

Brief No. 10.

Compiled by the Reports Section

July, 1923.

DAIRY BULL ASSOCIATIONS*

Excerpts from 1922 Annual Reports
of State and County Extension Agents.

	Page :		Page
Alabama	:	Nebraska	
Baldwin County.....	2	Extension dairyman	10
Arkansas	:	New Jersey	
Extension dairyman	3	Extension dairyman	11
Idaho	:	North Carolina	
Extension dairyman	3	Alamance County.....	12
Bonneville County	4	Randolph County	12
Camas County	4	Ohio	
Franklin County	4	Medina County	12
Illinois	:	Pennsylvania	
Jefferson County	5	Bedford County	13
Indiana	:	Crawford County	13
Jennings County	6	Huntingdon County	13
Vigo County	6	Washington County	14
Iowa	:	South Carolina	
Palo Alto County	6	Extension dairyman	14
Kentucky	:	Chesterfield County	15
Extension dairyman	7	Texas	
Boyd County	7	Lamar County	16
McLean County	8	Wisconsin	
Minnesota	:	Clark County	16
Beltrami County	8	Door County	17
Missouri	:		
Extension dairyman	9		

Alabama

On account of the small number of purebred bulls in the county and the small number of cattle owned by the average farmer, it was found advisable to put on a bull association campaign through the dairy association in order to place purebred bulls of dairy breed in the county. One association, organized in the county three years ago, proved a good demonstration to the people; and although the campaign has just started, two associations have been organized, one at Elberta and the other at Fairhope. The Elberta association was

* No attempt is made to cite all references to dairy bull associations in this circular. Only selected extracts showing typical methods employed and results secured in some States are included. Owing to differences in terminology used in the various States and to other local conditions, the information contained in this circular should be reviewed by the State subject-matter specialist concerned before incorporating any part of it in the extension plans for the State.

organized with 3 blocks representing 22 members and 150 cows, and 3 outstanding bulls which were purchased from the Ames farm in Mobile County. All three of the bulls have a record of over 500 pounds of butterfat, one having been sired by the grand champion of the national dairy show this year. This association requires all cows to be tested for tuberculosis and as a result, several men who did not believe in tuberculosis testing, purchased their own bulls cooperatively. This group purchased two exceedingly good bulls and it is expected that the two associations will combine later on in the year to make one with five blocks. The association organized at Fairhope with three blocks has placed with the American Guernsey Cattle Club an order for three Guernsey bulls out of 500-pound cows. During the next year it is expected that two additional associations, of at least three blocks each, will be organized. A total of nine bulls has been placed in the county. - W. G. McGowan, County Agent, Bay Minette, Baldwin County.

Arkansas

Three counties have organized Jersey bull associations, and have placed four bulls in each county. The bulls have records behind them of over 700 pounds of butterfat production. These associations make a total of six Holstein and one Guernsey bull associations in the State, all of which have been organized within two years. The first calves are being dropped in the Carroll County association, and one of its members in writing to the specialist makes this statement, "If I could not replace my share in the bull, I would not take \$1000 for it." In two other counties Jersey bull clubs were organized and in another county Holstein clubs were organized. These clubs will be nuclei for bull associations later. - W. H. Woodley, Extension Dairyman, College of Agriculture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Idaho

The bull associations previously organized (Payette, four Jersey; Camas, four Holstein; Elmore, five Holstein; Kootenai, three Jersey; and Bonner, three Jersey) were kept in operation. The first one organized will permit the tabulation of results of the use of the sires by comparison of records of the cows and their daughters, at the end of the year. A 10-block Holstein bull association was started in Franklin County. This was the largest one west of the Mississippi River until Teton County recently equaled that record. A Jersey bull association of 4 blocks was started in Gem County. A 24-block bull association was organized in Bonneville County. When completed it will be the largest one in the world. On account of financial conditions only 3 blocks are in operation at this time. Another 4-block Holstein bull association was started in Camas County as a result of a successful 4-block association established 4 years ago. A 10-block Holstein bull association was started in Teton County. There are excellent possibilities for doubling it during the year. This ties Franklin County for the honor of having the largest bull association west of the Mississippi River. In Bingham and Clark Counties, bull clubs were organized which will undoubtedly be enlarged into associations of 5 or more blocks during the coming year. - F. R. Cammack, Extension Dairyman, The State House, Boise.

The largest bull association in America was organized in Bonneville County June 30, 1922. Two hundred and twenty-five farmers with 850 cows made up the membership. The association is divided into 24 blocks, and a bull will be placed in each block. The fact that makes the association idea attractive is that members, with the small investment of \$1 per cow per year, may have access to bulls of the highest quality. Each member pays \$10 per cow to the association, and a minimum of 40 cows in each block makes available \$400 to purchase the bull and build the pen. The bulls are exchanged every two years. Much credit for the success of the enterprise is due to the good work of former extension agents and to the purebred sire campaign fostered by the Department of Agriculture. The farmers have been converted gradually to the idea of better sires as evidenced by the support and whole-hearted cooperation last spring. The subject of bull associations was discussed by county and local project leaders at the twenty 1-day community institutes held last April and May. In each case the local leader arranged at the meeting a list of all prospects and in some cases secured actual pledges at that time. Following the meeting, and after the people had had time to think seriously of the proposition, the community project leader and either the county agent or the specialist made a personal visit to the farm of each prospective member and secured his signature for membership.

The plan illustrates the only feasible method of getting any worth while plan of work adopted. Wherever a financial obligation is necessary, it is a mistake to try to secure a commission in a public meeting. Ninety per cent may be convinced, but one objector, if given the opportunity, may "spill the beans." The extension agents personally aided in securing the membership and organizing the association, but the collection of funds was left to the respective block supervisors. The extension agents are also active, with the cooperation of specialists, in locating available bulls and in studying and analyzing pedigrees. The management of the association is in the hands of a board of eight directors who have selected a practical farmer and college-trained dairy expert as purchasing agent. The officers recognize the bull associations as fundamental for the development of test associations and dairy manufacturing, and the financing of the purchase of dairy cattle. - J. O. Ellsworth, County Agent, Idaho Falls, Bonneville County.

The Camas County Holstein Bull Association was first formed with 4 blocks and 134 cows. Four registered bulls of first-class breeding with 500-pound production records behind them were secured. Cows bred to these sires have produced excellent type calves, with every indication pointing to good production. During the past season the Sunshine Valley Holstein Bull Association was formed with 3 blocks and 75 cows. Four bulls were secured so that an extra bull is now owned by the association. Heifers from these sires will begin freshening during the next year and events thereafter are looked forward to with interest. At the present time there are 12 registered Holstein sires in the county, and the black and whites are beginning to spot the landscape in practically all parts of the county. One purebred herd has been started, and several grade herds are beginning to loom up as money-makers for the owners. - P. M. Jesness, County Agent, Fairfield, Camas County.

Perhaps the largest piece of dairy work ever done in the county was the organizing of a 10-block cooperative Holstein bull association. The cooperation of the extension service, the western dairy division, and the Uni-

versity of Idaho have been largely responsible for the success of this organization. In fact the dairy department of the University of Idaho granted us permission to use three of their best bulls, free of charge, provided we would organize such an association. The association consists of 10 blocks divided into 3 districts. There are a caretaker and a block director in each block and a director in each district. There are 87 farmers, owning 461 cows, who are members of the association. The interesting fact has just come to light that the mother of one of the bulls will probably produce 22,000 pounds of milk for the year. This easily puts the bull of the association in the 500-pound class. It might be well to mention that no bull will be allowed in the association whose dam has a record under 500 pounds of butterfat per year. A carload of lumber for the building of a shed and pen in each block has just arrived. It was obtained directly from the Gould Lumber Co. at Seattle, Wash., costing \$1,055.77, which is \$400 cheaper than we could get it from any local dealer. At the time this report is being made, material is being compiled for the purpose of furnishing each member of the association with a booklet containing the constitution and by-laws, pictures of the bulls, and other useful dairy information. - M. A. Powell, County Agent, Preston, Franklin County.

Illinois

In May, 1921, soon after the farm bureau work was started in Jefferson County, W. H. Norfleet came into the office and said, "Mr. Abney, if the farm bureau does not do another thing but put over a bull association and buy bulls of the right caliber, I shall feel fully repaid for any effort and money expended in my work with the farm bureau." Mr. Norfleet was told that as soon as we could find a constitution that we thought would work in Jefferson County, we would take up bull association work; so he went back into his home community and began to talk about it. Articles were written and published in the papers, but it was not until September of the same year that any work in regard to bull associations was done. The county agent and Mr. Norfleet drove through the community in which Mr. Norfleet lived, and after three hours' work they had signed up 27 cows in one block of the association. This small amount of preliminary work gave us confidence that the proposition could be put over, so we immediately arranged for meetings to be held the first of December. C. S. Rhode, extension dairyman of the University of Illinois, was invited to the meetings to present the subject to the farmers.

Four meetings were held, two of which had results. Three blocks of the association finally developed. After enough cows were signed up to assure the forming of three blocks, a meeting of all persons interested in these blocks was called. At this meeting our association was formed, officers were elected, and the constitution was framed and adopted. It was decided that no bulls would be purchased by the association whose dams did not produce 600 pounds of butterfat as a mature cow, or that equivalent if tested at a younger age; and that the bulls should all be bred along the same blood lines. Before the bulls were purchased the fourth block was formed, and we were able to purchase four bulls from the same firm, bred practically the same. These bulls were purchased by the purchasing committee that was appointed by the board of directors. The committee gave careful study to the pedigrees sent to the farm bureau office, and did not purchase any bulls until they had been personally inspected. The first four bulls were delivered and ready for work in their respective

blocks by January 14. To show what one of the best breeders of purebred Jersey cattle in the county thought of the bulls purchased, it might be stated that when he was informed of the kind of bulls purchased, he bought 8 shares in one block. The bull located nearest to this breeder was 31 miles away so his cattle had to be trucked from his place in order to get service. - Bertram Abney, County Agent, Mount Vernon, Jefferson County.

Indiana

In connection with the purebred dairy sire campaign conducted in this county in December, 1921, the bull association idea was strongly advocated as a method of getting service from highly producing strains most economically. Frequent mention was made of the bull association's advantages at the township meetings. Finally, dairymen owning 30 cows in three different sections were impressed with the value of the plan; and each dairyman arranged with the local banker to get enough money to buy shares on the basis of \$8 per cow. The proposition was put through and the money raised for all three blocks. In April the county agent and a committee appointed by members of the association purchased three bulls whose dams had over 500-pound records. One of the bulls purchased did not do well; he fell off rapidly and looked as though he might die at any time. The man from whom he was purchased replaced him with another bull which also began to lose flesh. The keeper had emphasized the fact that there was no use of the first bull's suffering from malnutrition, and the same claim was made for the second bull. All the caretakers had been urged to feed the bulls according to the recommendations sent out from the dairy department at Purdue. These recommended rations had been unanimously adopted, but when the second bull went wrong a new caretaker was secured for the block which was not making a satisfactory showing. Since this change the bulls placed in other caretakers' hands have come out wonderfully, and one of them is normal at present. Little dissatisfaction has resulted from this change. In fact, there is more contentment in the way the association is running now than there has been since it was organized. The outlook is bright, with the shareholders steadily increasing in all of the blocks. - F. W. Potts, County Agent, North Vernon, Jennings County.

A cooperative bull association was organized in Linton Township during the past year. Three registered Holstein bulls were bought. In this association there are 51 men representing 144 cows. There are 135 cows bred at the present time; the first one is to calve in March. The three bulls cost \$1,000 and there was placed in the treasury \$440 which goes to pay for their feed. Each of these bulls has behind him a production record that far surpasses anything else in this part of the county. This work is going to lead up to the purchase of a carload of heifers by the members of this association, and possibly to a Holstein calf club. The Holstein cow is going to become more popular in this section because of the bulls that are here. - M. B. Nugent, County Agent, Terre Haute, Vigo County.

Iowa

A purebred bull association was organized because there was a demand from a few Holstein breeders in the county for the use of a better sire than

they could afford to buy individually. These few men, with the help of the county agent, called a meeting of the Holstein breeders to explain the plan of the organization and the things that might be accomplished. As a result of the meeting, 16 of the Holstein breeders agreed to take shares in a bull association. The members of this association are so located that in order to handle the different herds it is necessary to have four blocks with one bull in each block. The breeders not only expect to have the use of a better sire than they could buy individually, but by the use of an extra good sire, they expect to increase the quantity and quality of their herds' production. The organization gives the members an opportunity to buy and sell collectively to a better advantage than they could individually. Each member in taking out a membership pays an equal sum into the organization. The money is used for the purchase of bulls, while the cost of keeping them is taken care of by a breeding fee which varies according to the size of the herd. The committee appointed to purchase the bulls selected a very good type whose dams have a record of not less than 500 pounds of butterfat. Four bulls, that would look good in any show ring, have been purchased. Two of these are from dams having a record of over 1,000 pounds of butterfat. - F. F. Clark, County Agent, Emmetsburg, Palo Alto County.

Kentucky

During the calendar year the dairy extension field agents have assisted in the organization of bull associations in the following counties: McLean, 3 registered Jersey bulls to be used on 152 cows owned by 42 farmers; Boyd, 3 Jersey bulls for 125 cows owned by 25 farmers; Hart, 1 Jersey bull bought, 3 more to be purchased, for 175 cows owned by 30 farmers; Breckenridge, 3 Holstein bulls, association completed in November but the bulls not yet purchased; Campbell, 3 Jersey bulls, for 150 cows owned by 30 dairymen, and the fourth bull purchased to complete their 4-block Holstein association; Taylor, the fourth Holstein bull purchased to complete their association. This makes a total of 8 cooperative purebred bull associations in Kentucky embracing 30 bulls and 1,450 cows, owned by 350 dairy farmers. According to the Directory of Cooperative Bull Associations, issued by the Dairy Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Kentucky is the ninth State in number of such bull associations, Pennsylvania ranking first with 27 associations. The sires selected for the bull associations have dams with test records above 400 pounds of butterfat. In addition to the organization of the above-named associations, the dairy extension field agent has assisted in placing community bulls in Harlan and Fayette Counties, and extension dairymen have helped farmers to purchase good cows and heifers. - E. M. Prewitt, Extension Dairyman, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Through our community organizations we first got this project started and had no trouble in working up considerable interest, which resulted in the formation and organization of a Boyd County Cooperative Bull Association, with a bull of high productive ancestry bought and placed in each community. We lined up 50 cows to back each bull, in most cases, and the owners paid into the association \$3 per cow. In this way we obtained \$600 with which to purchase the four bulls. The organization is composed of four blocks and follows the rules and regulations set forth in a bulletin issued by the United

States Department of Agriculture. The bulls are all Jerseys and are the first purebred Jersey bulls brought into this county with any record at all. These bulls will be used on grade cows for the present; but we have created much interest among certain individuals in the county, who have agreed to get one good purebred heifer of the Jersey breed to keep as a foundation cow for a purebred herd. We think this is one of the best steps taken this year in the extension work in the county, and that it will mean more to the dairy industry than any other work we could have planned. - L. M. Amburgey, County Agent, Cattlettsburg, Boyd County.

In livestock work the outstanding feature has been the formation of the McLean County Cooperative Jersey Bull Association, composed of 46 farmers owning 150 cows. This association has bought and is using three bulls out of register-of-merit dams. As a result of the formation of this association considerable interest is being aroused in dairying, and one more registered Jersey bull and five registered heifers have been brought to the county in addition to the bulls belonging to the association. The bull club has been instrumental also in arousing interest in testing for tuberculosis. - R. H. Ford, County Agent, Calhoun, McLean County.

Minnesota

As the county agent considered that the establishment of cooperative bull associations was the surest and safest way to improve livestock generally, he began to organize such associations early in the summer of 1921. The cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture was secured and J. C. Winkjer agreed to spend a month in the county assisting the county in spreading the gospel of purebred bulls through cooperative associations. This work was begun in August, when six meetings were held. Efforts were centered on blocks which later would be grouped into associations. As a result, 14 blocks were organized and one cooperative bull association perfected. Splendid cooperation was given by a number of banks by offering to lend money without interest to farmers wishing to buy purebred sires. Thirty-one blocks were completed or partially organized. Twenty bulls were purchased, eight by the association, the others by individual breeders or blocks. The annual meeting of the Beltrami County Bull Association No. 1 was held in Bemidji in December, when it was decided to levy an assessment of \$1 on each cow. The association is composed of 19 members owning 126 cows. At this meeting new officers were elected for the coming year. Four Guernsey bulls were purchased in December, three for the association at Turtle River and one for a group of farmers near Solway.

Early in March Mr. Winkjer was in the county for a conference with the county agent in regard to further work with cooperative bull associations. It was decided that Mr. Winkjer should spend three weeks in the county perfecting associations already started and forming others. Effort was made to visit as many as possible of the purebred bulls purchased the preceding year, checking up on condition and the care given and urging the building of bull pens. Excellent work was done with the Turtle River Cooperative Bull Association. A meeting of the board of directors of this association was called, and a tour of inspection of the bulls planned and carried out. All of the bulls except one were found to be in excellent condition and arrangements were

made to have this animal removed to a place where he would be given better care. Assistance was given one block in building a pen, which covered one-tenth of an acre and was enclosed with a pole fence. A breeding crate, built as part of the equipment, was explained to the board of directors on this tour.

One more association, the Hagali Holstein Association with three blocks, was organized in May, and the foundations were laid for two more Holstein associations and two more Guernsey associations. Six special meetings in regard to the organization of blocks and associations were held in addition to regular farm bureau units and farmers' clubs attended for the same purpose. In addition to the holding of these meetings, approximately 15 farmers were visited on their farms in regard to the work. Literature and blanks for signing blocks were left with these farmers. As a result of this work, bull associations are in prospect at Waskish, Kelliher, Shotley, Battle River, and Nebish. The plan is to organize more blocks and group them into associations. Mr. Winkjer returned to the county for fall work along these lines. He attended farm bureau unit meetings and farmers' clubs as well as special meetings called for the work. As a result two more blocks were added to the Hagali Bull Association making a total of six blocks, and a Guernsey bull association was organized at Blackduck with seven blocks. One Guernsey block, with 11 members owning 65 cows, was organized at Puposky, where a Guernsey bull will be purchased. The result of two years' work for better sires through cooperative bull associations has been the introduction of approximately 50 purebred sires into the county and the organization of three cooperative associations. The value of the purebred sires cannot be overestimated, as they are being used on about 40 cows, bringing approximately 2,000 grade calves into the county every year. - D. C. Dvorack, County Agent, Bemidji, Beltrami County.

Missouri

Accomplishments in bull association work have fully measured up to the goal set. Although Jefferson County, which had been counted upon for an association, did not organize, other counties exceeded our hopes. The work has continued through the year in Webster, Wright, Douglas, and Saint Francois Counties, and new associations have been completed in Lafayette, Marion, Ralls, and Stoddard Counties. We now have 9 associations in Missouri in 8 counties. These associations include 33 blocks or communities and 231 members. The average yearly record of the dams of all bulls owned by Missouri bull associations is about 713 pounds of butterfat. Since no organizations of less than three blocks or communities are included, all of the Missouri associations are reasonably permanent and are forming strong community breeding centers. The following table illustrates the status of Missouri bull associations:

Number of members	231
Number of associations	9
Number of blocks or communities	33
Number of cows owned by members	1,735
Number of bulls before organizing ...	136
Number of bulls in associations	33

Total cost of bulls purchased	\$10,050.00
Average cost of bulls	304.55
Average investment per farmer	43.51
Average investment per cow	5.78
Purebred females owned by members when associations were organized....	22
Purebred females now owned by members	400

Bull associations are proving to be the best and most practical means of establishing community breeding centers in Missouri. In counties where these associations are operating, the surplus purebred calves are rapidly taking the place of scrubs. In this same connection should be mentioned the fact that 277 scrub bulls were replaced with purebred dairy bulls during the year. - E. M. Harmon, Extension Dairyman, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, Columbia.

Nebraska

The bull association project has been carried on in Saunders, Hamilton, and Buffalo Counties during the year. The Saunders County Bull Association was the first to be organized in the State, thereby winning a high class purebred bull offered by the Woodlawn dairy of Lincoln, Nebraska, as a prize to the first cooperative bull association to be organized. Assistance and many valuable suggestions were given on this subject by J. G. Winkjer, of the Dairy Division, United States Department of Agriculture and Prof. H. P. Davis of the university dairy department. The Saunders County Bull Association consists of 5 blocks with 14 members owning 240 cows. It was first planned to arrange these blocks in two circuits with each circuit paying for and owning the bull it uses. The biannual exchange of bulls was to be confined to the circuit, and there was to be one set of officers and board of directors for the whole association, with the secretary-treasurer keeping separate records of the receipts and obligations of each circuit. This system was later abandoned and the association organized in a single unit instead of two. The 5 purebred bulls in the association replaced 10 inferior bulls. As a matter of protection in case an association bull should injure or kill any one or damage property, the members decided to incorporate. A committee was appointed to investigate the possibilities, with the result that a set of articles of incorporation were drawn up and presented to the secretary of state. The articles were accepted and a certificate of incorporation issued for a non-profit corporation according to the laws of the State.

The Hamilton County Bull Association was organized under a plan similar to that of the Saunders County association except that they secured the loan of purebred bulls instead of buying them. An agreement was entered into, with the dairy division of the University of Nebraska and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating, whereby the required number of bulls would be furnished free of charge, provided that the members would agree to properly feed and care for such bulls; to keep their herds free from tuberculosis; to keep accurate milk records of all cows with which the bull mated; to test the milk of such cows monthly for butterfat; and to

keep accurate milk and butterfat records of all daughters of these bulls. This sort of an agreement seems to be working out very satisfactorily so far. The United States Department of Agriculture has promised to send a man to look after such a project as soon as enough bulls can be placed to occupy his time in keeping tab on them. The 3 bulls in this association replaced 8 inferior bulls. - M. N. Lawritson, Extension Dairyman, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

New Jersey

The cooperative bull association project provided for cooperative ownership, use and exchange of meritorious purebred bulls. There are at present 47 cooperators in this project, using 36 high-class bulls on about 1,000 cows. Data regarding these associations are given in the following table:

Name of association	County	Number of herds	Number of bulls	Breed	Date organized
Layton	Sussex	6	3	Holstein	1919
Wallpack Center	Sussex	6	3	do.	1920
Passaic	Passaic	3	3	do.	1920
West Livingston	Essex	5	3	do.	1921
Caldwell	Essex	5	2	do.	1921
State institution ...		11	11	do.	1919
Mullica Hill	Salem	4	4	do.	1920
Salem	Salem	4	4	do.	1920
Woodlane	Burlington	3	3	Guernsey	1922

This is a long-time demonstration of six or more years. The results which will be secured by these bull associations are of enormous importance. None of these associations has been organized long enough for the daughters of the bulls to be in milk, but there is a very noticeable improvement in the quality of the young stock as compared with the older cattle in these herds. The bull association is the most fundamental project. It strikes right to the heart of the greatest weakness of our dairy business, which is the quality of cows with which our dairymen are working. The producing ability of a man's cow is one of the greatest factors in his net returns. Since the bull association is the most sure and rapid means of improving our herds, we are exerting every possible effort toward the expansion of this work. The first Guernsey bull association in the State was organized in Burlington County during the year. Considerable work was done toward organizing a high-class Holstein bull association in Cumberland County, in which each block would purchase a \$1,000 bull. One block has been completed and we hope to complete the association during the year. - M. H. Keeney, Extension Dairyman, State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Rutgers College, New Brunswick.

North Carolina

This year I organized a bull association among the negro farmers in a community of the county. This is the first purebred bull association established among the negro farmers. A purebred Jersey bull was purchased, each member owning a \$5 share. One of the members keeps and cares for the bull, receiving all outside fees for his compensation. The fee for service outside the association is \$2.50, while each member gets the service free. - J. W. Jeffries, Negro County Agent, Mebane, Alamance County.

When I came to Randolph County to work I found that at one time a bull association had been attempted. Three bulls had been purchased and placed in the blocks three years ago, but no organization was ever formed, nor the bulls ever changed in the blocks. Each farmer seemed to think that he had the best bull. I started to work to organize this club and get them to change the bulls but found that two of the bulls had been sold. I then visited all of the stockholders in the club, telling them of the benefits of the bull clubs and urging them to buy back the bulls and place them in the blocks again. I had already seen to the owners and had gotten them to consent to sell the bulls back to the club. After making about 75 personal calls and holding 3 meetings, I got the clubs together again and persuaded the members to purchase the bulls. At our county fair this fall I had all the bulls on exhibition, and at the close of the fair they were put into new blocks. The bulls are now in good hands, and the association is working satisfactorily. Two years from now we shall change the bulls again, placing them in new communities each time so that we may use purebred sires without breeding back to their daughters. At the end of four more years we shall be obliged to sell these bulls and replace them with new ones. I think we can do this without any trouble, since the farmers interested have been thoroughly convinced of the importance of the bull association work. - E. S. Millsaps, County Agent, Asheboro, Randolph County.

Ohio

One of the accomplishments of the Holstein breeders of the county last year was the organization of the Medina County Holstein Association. The members immediately became active in the improvement of blood lines of their breed and after a year's work reported the organization of the first Holstein bull association in Ohio. The plan of organization for the most part was that recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture. Each block was allowed 65 cows, of which the original cost was \$20 per cow. The amount necessary for the keep of the bulls will be assessed at the end of the year. The Ohio Holstein Association rendered valuable assistance to the organization. The big thing about this cooperative effort is the class of sires the 45 members wanted. The committee was to purchase bulls out of the same sire, with records of around 1,000 pounds of butterfat in a year. Such sires have been purchased from the Beaver Dam herd at Montgomery, N. Y. These bulls are out of Ormsby Sensation and O. K. L. daughters. Interest is keen and already two other blocks are being planned. No breeder may become a member of the association unless he agrees to put his herd under State supervision for tuberculosis eradication. Every member is urged to join a cow-testing association. - R. H. Halderson, County Agent, Medina, Medina County.

Pennsylvania

The bull association concerns itself principally with obtaining greater profit through breeding. Ordinarily, bull associations first require a group of three or four dairymen living within service distance of one another who agree on one breed. Provided there exists such a group of men in one community and similar groups in others, it is possible to include a large number of men or groups in one association. Each member contributes \$12 or any other sum agreed upon, for each cow he expects to own. The money pooled in this manner is used to purchase one bull for each group of men in the association. Purchases are made of individuals whose dams in preceding generations have had high records of production, in many cases as high as 1,000 pounds of butterfat yearly. Every two years the bulls are moved from one group to another. This makes possible eight or more years of high-class service for as little or less cost than if each man maintained a sire of his own, which in most cases would have inferior blood lines. During the past year an association of this kind was organized and includes groups located at Yellow Creek, Breezewood, and Clear Ridge, and east and south of Everett. Five purebred Jersey bulls, sons of some of the highest-producing Jersey cattle in the world, are owned by this association. They should pass on their producing characteristics to their offspring and thus develop more profitable cattle for their owners in the future. - L. R. Molleneur, County Agent, Bedford, Bedford County.

The Crawford County Holstein Bull Association consists of 112 members, all of which have their herds tested for tuberculosis under Federal and State supervision. The association is now entering its fourth year and has 14 exceptionally well-bred Holstein sires, which stand in 14 communities. During the year it was found necessary to replace one of these sires, due to tuberculosis. This has been the only interruption in the good work which the association is doing. A recent inspection of the association reveals the fact that a large number of finely developed heifers are coming on, which will soon fill the stanchions of less desirable cows. The association just recently has presented Pennsylvania State College with a beautiful heifer sired by one of the association's bulls. This heifer will stand as an example of the good work which the association is doing. - C. D. Sprout, County Agent, Meadville, Crawford County.

One registered Holstein bull association was organized in the Warrior's Mark and Franklinville communities, in which 10 members formed 4 blocks of this association. Four registered bulls were purchased at the second annual sale of the Winterthur Farms at Winterthur, Del., at very reasonable prices, averaging less than \$250 each. The immediate dams of each of these bulls have semi-official records that range from 500 to 863 pounds of butter, and up to as high as 21,000 pounds of milk. If all goes well, this one investment in sires by these men will last for eight years. This is giving them cheaper service than if each one owned a registered sire of cheaper grade. Eight other registered sires were placed in the hands of farmers of the county. - R. S. Clark, County Agent, Huntingdon, Huntingdon County.

The Washington County Bull Association was formed in 1919, and four bulls were purchased in 1920. The average yearly production for the first five dams of these bulls was 1,000 pounds of butter and 24,000 pounds of milk. All of the bulls are developing well and are giving general satisfaction. The calves from these bulls are big individuals and promise to be good producers. The bulls were rotated in December, 1922. All herds in the association are on the accredited herd plan. The majority of the members have done some A. R. O. testing with good results. - E. H. Fulton, County Agent, Washington, Washington County.

South Carolina

More time of the field men has been given to organizing and reviewing the work of bull associations than to any other project. On July 1, 1922, South Carolina with 23 active associations ranked second among all the States in number of associations organized, as reported by the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture. In the past the lack of attention to dairying has given the bull associations a place of minor importance in the eyes of the members, who, because of this, have given practically no support to their management and improvement. This has made it necessary for the old associations, with few exceptions, to be reorganized. Through annual meetings, picnics, and personal visits to the bull keepers and directors, we have impressed on the members the importance of keeping the associations on the active list. We have interested many members of the associations in selling cream to the local creameries, thus showing them the value of good cows. The work with the association included visits to each bull keeper to advise him as to the feeding and management of the association bull. Whenever the bull has been allowed to get thin or to run with the herd of the keeper we find a lack of interest through that block. Some of the bulls have become sterile. Investigation has shown this trouble almost invariably to be the result of feeding cottonseed meal and hulls or of lack of exercise; usually of both. A keeper who feeds only cottonseed meal and hulls will usually keep the bull in a stall without exercise. At the present time all sterile bulls in active associations have been replaced, or made potent by a change of management and feed.

The Chesterfield County Guernsey Bull Association is one of the best organizations established along this line during the year. It was formed with eight blocks covering the county thoroughly, and with a membership representing the best farming interests. This association should develop into a live Guernsey center. As a result of the association 500 cows were tested for tuberculosis, no one being allowed service in the association unless his cattle were free from disease; and approximately 25 scrub bulls were eliminated. A Jersey bull association was organized in Lancaster County with six blocks. There was already one association in this county with three blocks, so now there are nine association bulls in active service distributed over the entire county. One bull was added to the Pickens County Jersey Association, making five bulls for the association. All changes provided in the constitution of the association due this year have been made.

The Dillon County Guernsey Bull Association, originally formed in 1918, has been reorganized this fall. Two bulls which had become sterile have been recently replaced. The association now has nine bulls and is working satisfactorily. Under the original organization, all of the funds

received as service fees were deposited with the county treasurer who paid to each block a fixed amount for bull keep. Now, each block is organized to furnish this keep and to turn into the county treasury a percentage for replacing bulls as needed. During the summer the Williamsburg County Guernsey Bull Association got into a bad condition financially. Therefore, at the annual picnic and meeting it was decided that each member might furnish feed for the bull as service payment instead of cash. Under this arrangement there is much better satisfaction among the members. A Jersey bull association has been organized in Calhoun County, with three blocks owned by three farmers who have agreed to adopt a constitution and by-laws. The bulls are now in service. A four-block Guernsey bull association has just been formed in Richland County. Two bulls have been purchased already and a third one has been located.

The many troubles in keeping bull associations in active condition have their origin in a lack of appreciation of the value of a good sire, which causes:

- (1) Improper feeding.
- (2) Improper management.
- (3) Use of scrub bulls by members.
- (4) Too many members in a block.
- (5) Neglect of association by the secretary, directors and county agent.
- (6) Failure to collect the service dues.

The results of this year's work are as follows:

New associations organized	4
New associations started	7
Old associations reorganized	7
Meetings held	37
Days spent on bull associations	86 1/2
Counties worked	25

- J. P. Lamaster, Extension Dairyman, Agricultural College, Clemson College.

A Guernsey bull association has been organized in this county as a result of my efforts to improve dairy herds. We organized seven blocks with one bull in each block. The cooperative effort on the part of the farmers is encouraging. We have secured seven of the best obtainable Guernsey bulls. One of the outstanding factors in present-day livestock development is the community enterprise of cooperative development of one particular breed. Through this unified effort we hope to establish some county, community, or sectional name as a trade-mark of excellence and progress that will push some breed of livestock to the foreground through the maze of individual breeders. This would be impossible to do without an organization. In the Guernsey breed these units are making themselves felt, and the bull association is becoming the foundation for community enterprises. It is, therefore, gratifying to announce the recent formation of a county organization for the purpose of promoting the Guernsey breed. Chesterfield County has added its name to the list under the title, "Chesterfield County Guernsey Bull Association." Few such organizations have started forth with equal determination and enthusiasm to take a place among the breeders of the best Guernsey blood.

At a meeting of the directors on May 29, it became apparent that this association was formed on bedrock; and that only the best animals would suit,

and only the most progressive provision would be written in the constitution, so far as the spokesman of the organization was concerned. The constitution in final form is businesslike and progressive. It permits the use of bulls of live blood lines, from dams with a 2-year-old A. R. record of at least 400 pounds of fat or the equivalent. Strict tuberculosis testing is provided for. Strict breeding rules are included, and a circuit arrangement within the association provides for an excellent system of line breeding by exchange of the animals in order to best utilize the association. In its final form the association includes eight blocks, covering the whole county. Twenty-five scrub bulls were eliminated. Approximately 130 non-members will use the association bulls. About 400 cows are located in the immediate territory where the bulls are kept, including 70 purebred cows owned by non-members. - W. J. Tiller, County Agent, Chesterfield, Chesterfield County.

Texas

Representatives of three blocks, consisting of officers and other members, met in Paris and organized a county bull association. The constitution and by-laws of the association provide in part that the association shall be known as the Lamar County Bull Association with headquarters at Paris, in the county agent's office. It further provides that funds be pooled and three bulls purchased, one for each block. These bulls must be out of officially tested dams with records of at least 500 pounds of butterfat to the mature cow. The bulls shall be exchanged every two years until each community has had service of all three bulls. The three directors shall have control of the management of the affairs of the association, and each block shall select its own keepers, fix breeding fees, and make other arrangements to suit local conditions; but such arrangements must be satisfactory to the directors of the association. At this meeting a time was set for buying the bulls. In March, the directors of the association and the county agent attended the Fort Worth stock show, and with the assistance of the extension dairyman, purchased two bulls at an auction sale of the Texas Jersey Cattle Club, and one at private sale. The total cost of the bulls, delivered at Paris, amounts to \$606. Forty-eight men are interested in these bulls; 16 at Chicota, 15 at Pattonville, and 17 at Minter. - W. G. North, County Agent, Paris, Lamar County.

Wisconsin

We have four bull associations in operation in the county. There were three last year but this year we have added one new club. The first associations were of breeders of purebreds; but the organization in Columbia this past summer was composed of eight farmers with grade cattle. Through the banks we are about to purchase a \$250 sire for the association. The dam of this sire had a record of 200 pounds of butterfat when 2 years old. It is hoped that in another year we can add two or three more clubs to these associations. It is interesting to note that in the other bull associations the sire has from 40 to 70 daughters scattered throughout the community at the present time. Only a few of these calves are old enough to give milk, but all of them show that they have something behind them. - H. M. Knipfel, County Agent, Neillsville, Clark County.

On Washington Island the Holstein Breeders' Association was reorganized and incorporated as a cooperative bull association. By assessing each member \$2 per cow the association purchased two splendidly bred bulls for the use of its members. A third bull undoubtedly will be purchased in the coming spring. A service fee of \$1 per cow will practically pay operating expenses while all other necessary money will be raised by special means such as socials or picnics. At the all-island picnic in August the association cleared over \$100 for its treasury. The object of the low fee is to encourage all the islanders to join associations. This cooperative bull association is a big step forward, the importance of which is difficult to estimate. - A. G. Bailey, County Agent, Sturgeon Bay, Door County.

-----oOo-----

Representatives of these picnic associations of all islands and other islands met in June and organized a county bull association. The committee and by one of the associations a picnic was held on the Washington Island in June and the association with headquarters at Sturgeon Bay, Door County, was organized. It is hoped that this picnic will be held annually and that the association will be able to purchase a third bull for the use of its members. The association will also be able to raise money for its treasury by special means such as socials or picnics. The object of the low fee is to encourage all the islanders to join associations. This cooperative bull association is a big step forward, the importance of which is difficult to estimate. - A. G. Bailey, County Agent, Sturgeon Bay, Door County.

It is hoped that this picnic will be held annually and that the association will be able to purchase a third bull for the use of its members. The association will also be able to raise money for its treasury by special means such as socials or picnics. The object of the low fee is to encourage all the islanders to join associations. This cooperative bull association is a big step forward, the importance of which is difficult to estimate. - A. G. Bailey, County Agent, Sturgeon Bay, Door County.